

Spring Year 6 – RAIDERS OF THE LOST MAYANS

Herne Junior School
2020-2021

Description/Theme Intent:

The children will be learning about the ancient Mayan civilisation. This will include looking closely at: social structure, religion, farming and food, religious temples, the number system, star gazing and the calendar. During the theme the children will be able to make a comparison between this civilisation and what was occurring in Britain at the same time. The children will gain an understanding of the terms 'empire', 'civilisation', 'parliament' and 'peasantry'.

Curriculum Hook:

Children will participate in a 'Timeline Treasure Hunt' placing key historical events on a timeline. This will give the children a greater understanding of when civilisations flourished in comparison to one another. Children will also design and make delicious Mayan styled flatbreads as a way of introducing the topic.

Quality Text / Whole Class Reader:

The Curse of the Maya by Johnny Pearce and Andy Loneragan
A range of non-fiction Mayan reference books



Links to being a British and Global Citizen:

While studying the hierarchal Mayan society the children will compare it with the British Value of democracy and how this is reflected in British culture today.

Links to RRR, SMSC and HARMONY:

The children will learn about 'The World of Work' and 'RR and the Law'. This will make an interesting comparison to the social structure and judicial system used by the Mayan society. They will be looking in depth at a new culture (SMSC) and comparing it to their own.

Life Long Learning Skills:

- **Independence:** Children will form their own opinions about the decline of the Mayan Civilisation through their research.
- **Collaboration:** Children will collaborate through researching, presenting and sharing aspects of the Mayan culture.

Outcome/Impact: The children will produce a homework project on an aspect of the Mayan civilisation to present to the rest of the class. They will also produce a high quality topic book showcasing all of their work from the term.

As readers, writers and performers, we will:

- write as historians using a variety of historic sources to argue why the Mayan civilisation declined.
- create their own Mayan God and describe a meeting with this angered God.
- write an explanatory text, describing a ceremony needed to appease their God.
- develop their close reading skills to produce a picture of a Mayan God based on a range of descriptions. Then, use their research into the Mayan social structure to choose a suitable role for their Mayan God.

As mathematicians, we will:

- studying number and focusing in on decimals, this will include; ordering; rounding; and multiplying by 10, 100 and 1000.
- learn about percentages, this will include; comparing them to decimals and fractions; working out percentage of amounts; and solving percentage problems.
- practice mathematical algebra.
- continue our studies in measurement, this will include; converting measures; and solving perimeter, area and volume problems.
- Study different elements of ratio, this will include; problems with relative sixes-missing ; values found; using multiplication & division; shapes and scale factor; unequal sharing and grouping.

As scientists, we will:

- revise simple circuits.
- use recognised symbols when representing a simple circuit in a diagram.
- compare and give reasons for variations in how components function.
- apply knowledge of circuits to real-life situations.
- work with electricity safely.

As historians, we will:

- be learning about the ancient Mayan civilisation. This will include looking closely at: social structure, religion, farming and food, religious temples, the number system, star gazing and the calendar.
- be able to make a comparison between this civilisation and what was occurring in Britain at the same time.
- gain an understanding of the terms 'empire', 'civilisation', 'parliament' and 'peasantry' as well as investigating primary and secondary historical sources. The use of these sources will enable us to decide upon possible reasons for the decline of the Mayan civilisation.

Celebrating our local community

- Through reading "The Curst of the Maya" written by local author Johnny Pearce.